

wherein R¹ is alkyl amine alkylene or alkyl amido alkylene; R² and R³ are each alkyl, hydroxy alkyl, polyalkoxy with the degree of polymerization ranging from 2 to 30, hydroxyl alkyl sulfonate, alkyl sulfonate or alkylarylsulfonate; R⁴ is hydrocarbon, saturated or unsaturated; wherein any two of R², R³ and R⁴, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring; and X is selected from the group consisting of halides; oxo ions of phosphorous, sulfur or chloride; and organic anions; and, optionally

b) at least one counterion selected from the group consisting of inorganic salts, organic salts, organic acids, alcohols, and mixtures thereof.

5. (amended) The aqueous based fluid of claim 1 wherein said counterion is an aromatic sulfonate.

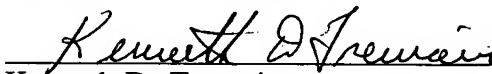
REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that (b) is a "counterion", thus making it clear what the term counterion is referring to in the dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted

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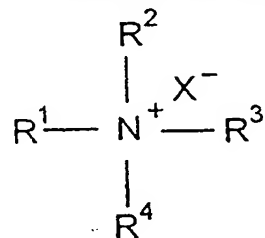
Docket No. PER-0020-WO

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (amended) An aqueous based fluid in oil field applications comprising:

a) at least one cationic surfactant having the following general structure:



wherein R¹ is alkyl amine alkylene or alkyl amido alkylene; R² and R³ are each alkyl, hydroxy alkyl, polyalkoxy with the degree of polymerization ranging from 2 to 30, hydroxyl alkyl sulfonate, alkyl sulfonate or alkylarylsulfonate; R⁴ is hydrocarbon, saturated or unsaturated; wherein any two of R², R³ and R⁴, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring; and X is selected from the group consisting of halides; oxo ions of phosphorous, sulfur or chloride; and organic anions; and, optionally

b) at least [additive] counterion selected from the group consisting of inorganic salts, organic salts, organic acids, alcohols, and mixtures thereof.

5. (amended) The aqueous based fluid of claim 1 wherein [X] said counterion is an aromatic sulfonate.